

Remarks

Claims 1-32 are pending. The drawings are objected to. The specification is objected to. The Abstract is objected to. Claims 10 and 26 are objected to. Claims 1-32 are rejected. Claims 1, 2, 6, 17, 18, and 22 are amended by this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-32.

The drawings have been amended per the Examiner's suggestions in the recent office action. The objection can be withdrawn.

With one exception, the specification has been amended per the Examiner's suggestions in the recent office action. The exception is the suggested amendment to page 15, line 17. There is no typo on this line, since the SONET/SDH ring is formed by *both* broadband interfaces 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, and 116 *and* connections 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, and 128. The objection can be withdrawn.

The Abstract has been amended per the Examiner's suggestions in the recent office action. The objection can be withdrawn.

Claims 10 and 26 are objected to as substantial duplicates of respective claims 9 and 25. In claims 9 and 25, a called number is recited, but in claims 10 and 26, a caller number is recited. As is known in the art, a called number is the number of the called party, but the caller number is the caller's own number. The objection can be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 22 are objected to because the phrase "international network" was not supported by the specification. Claims 6 and 22 have been amended to use the phrase "international carrier" which is supported by the specification.

Claims 1-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. Claims 1 and 17 have been clarified by this amendment. The rejection can be withdrawn.

Claims 1-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,324,179 (Doshi) in view of U.S. Patent 5,495,484 (Self). Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to distinguish Doshi and Self. In amended claim 1, a signaling processing system processes signaling to select an identifier and transfers a message indicating the identifier to an interworking unit. The interworking unit receives the message, and in response, interworks the user communications into asynchronous communications including the identifier. Thus, the identifier is selected based on signaling, and the selected identifier is

implemented in response to the message. Advantageously, this signaling-based control over the identifier is implemented at the point where the interworking occurs.

In Doshi, Terminal Adaptor (TA) 210 is the *unit* that interworks user communications into asynchronous communications. (See Doshi, column 7, lines 17-36). TA 210 does not interwork user communications into asynchronous communications *in response to a message*. In contrast, TA 210 uses a *predetermined look-up table* to perform the interworking. (See Doshi, column 7, lines 19-22). Because TA 210 relies on a predetermined table instead of messages, TA 210 cannot support signaling-based control over the identifier at the interworking point in response to a message. Doshi requires expensive ATM switch 215 to convert the identifier from the one provided by TA 210 to the one selected by translator 215-3. Thus, Doshi exhibits the same problem described in the background section of the present application.

Self does not suggest exerting signaling-based control over the identifier at the point where the interworking occurs.

The same remarks apply to claims 2-32. The rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that there are numerous additional reasons in support of patentability, but that such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interests of brevity. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-32.



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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